

Nike Missile Base SL-40,
Acid Fueling Station
South end of Launch Area
east of underground storage magazines
and launcher-loader assemblies
Vicinity of Hecker
Monroe County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-117-W

HAER
ILL
67-HECK, V.
1 W-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
NIKE MISSILE BASE SL-40, ACID FUELING STATION

HAER
ILL
67-HECK.V,
IW-

HAER No. IL-117-W

- Location:** The acid fueling station is located in the southern portion of the Launch Area. It lies within what was originally a bermed area, which is located to the east of the underground storage magazines and launcher-loader assemblies (HAER No. IL-117-AA), and to the west of generator building no. 3 (HAER No. IL-117-V). Within the once bermed area, the acid fueling station was the eastern most area, with the warheading building (HAER No. IL-117-W) lying just to the west.
- Significance:** At the acid fueling station, Nike crews fueled the booster, and attached it to the missile.
- Description:** The acid fueling station is a concrete area with a series of shallow troughs. The station was used to load liquid fuel into the sustainer motor of the Nike Ajax missile. Although Nike Missile Base SL-40 was equipped with solid-fueled Hercules missiles, the presence of the acid fueling station indicates that the installation was equipped to handle both Ajax and Hercules missiles. A semi-circular, large earthen berm, about eight to ten feet high, originally surrounded the acid fueling station as protection against explosion. The berm has since been leveled.
- Historian:** Christina Carlson, Bregman & Company, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland, June 1994